

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

start talking about the Heidemann amendment, I want to give a compliment to Senator Don Pederson and his staff and the Fiscal Office, Doug Nichols particularly. I just, spot on, you've got a top drawer staff. Any time something is needed, he's right here helping and he's just as good as it gets. So thank you for that. Now to the Heidemann amendment. Surprise, surprise, surprise. I knew this was all about money. First, I thought it was race. Now I realize what's really going on here. We, my row of colleagues have said through their cloture vote earlier today, you can buy us off. That's what they've done. You can shake your head. We had a cloture motion here last night that failed. I had heard some rumblings from some of my rural colleagues that there was an agreement that Senator Raikes was going to allow an amendment to increase funding for rural schools on Select File, and here it is. Here it is. My dad had a favorite phrase. He'd always say, I call a spade a dirty shovel. We got a dirty shovel here, ladies and gentlemen. You don't have a cloture vote that comes up with 31 and then 8 hours later comes up with 40-some votes without something happening. Somebody was bought, and that's what's going on here. You know, I have been as strong a supporter for rural Nebraska as anybody in this body, anybody who has looked at my work over eight years. Senator Cunningham will talk to you about the call center in Wausa that put 40-some jobs. That was an amendment that I had done. I have advocated on behalf of rural Nebraska constantly. But what you're doing tonight is you're saying, I'm going to give you my cloture vote on this bill. I'm going to adopt a bad, segregationist, racial policy and you can pay me off, increase the funding to my schools, and we'll vote for it. You know, this is...I have two days left in the Legislature and if I leave here with no friends, that's fine because I'm going to call it for what it is. You voted against cloture last night, a deal was cut, you get some additional funding. All of a sudden, this is the best idea in the world. We're adopting a segregated policy, a state-sanctioned segregated policy and you're doing it because you're being paid to. You can deny it, you can shake your head. I hope you're turning red because that's what's going on here. I'm embarrassed to be part of this Legislature right now.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Brashear.